

BARAD-DUR No 3

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GENERAL NEWS

A GAME IN SERIOUS DIFFICULTY; MAY FACE RESTART AS ACT OF GOD RULE COMES UNDER FIRE!

EMERGENCY PHONE MOVES PERMITTED IN BOTH GAMES!

The A game as of this writing is in serious difficulty. The Gamesmaster, who follows precedents set down by the originators of Postal Diplomacy, so far as inflexible deadlines are concerned, is under fire for doing so.

The first problem is the basic rule itself. It has become increasingly clear that some players do not understand the nature of diplomacy as used in a postal game. Diplomacy should never be a short-term thing, with diplomacy for the fall being conducted between the spring and fall moves. Such short-term nonsense makes for missing deadlines, and has no playing advantage over the proper form, which is, simply, that DIPLOMACY GOES ON CONSTANTLY REGARDLESS OF MOVES, and is aimed at ultimate goals many moves in advance. Playing move-to-move Diplomacy is identical to playing chess on a move-by-move basis rather than playing for many moves in advance. As any good chessplayer knows, that sort of thing leads to a totally defensive game of reactions to the moves of other players, and is a sure way to defeat. Diplomacy based on a single move and then renegotiated for every following move is ridiculous for the same reasons. Yet some people have been doing this, and, as a consequence, they missed deadlines. Now they wish the rules to be bent around, the deadlines to bend a little, to accomodate their mistaken method of play. This can not be done, and will not be done, as was spelled out by Bounds in his newsletter to A game players and is being spelt out to B game players here and now.

Now, the A game is up for a vote -- not on the question of deadlines but on the question of whether to restart or continue. If the game is restarted, the rules have been bent and we might as well scrap the rulebook altogether. What these people seem to want isn't a Gamesmaster but a mailing address.

The surprising thing to me is the scope of emotional involvement of the players. This is a game, not real, nor is it a pseudolife such as the Coventrians believe in. A game is run along rules of fair play, strict obedience to the rules, and sportsmanship. None of this has been followed to date.

For one thing, remarks have been made to the effect that Ron Bounds is my puppet. This allegation is even more serious when you remember I am a player in A; therefore, this amounts to an accusation of cheating against both Bounds and myself. The allegation is ridiculous, and is based solely on the fact that both Bounds and I have issued some identical rulings in regards to playing the two games. This is natural -- we are not making rules, but clarifying them, and if Ron should come up with one such item -- such as the Act of God rule -- and I should see it and like it, then we'll both issue it together in order to save time and space. A second instance is the Emergency Phone Bill covered below. The idea was Ron's, and I think it a good one. However, the Bill as listed below is only applicable to B; Ron's may have slight differences, so check the A section of #4.

But the charge of cheating is an insult to the both of us. I believe that (1) an apology is in order (2) if the allegation is honestly believed, that proof be issued, (3) that players believing us low enough to cheat should withdraw.

Let me say right now that Ron and I have never discussed either game with the other. The only Diplomacy discussions between us have been on the theoretical level -- such as difficult imaginary situations that may pop up and require a ruling, ~~as~~ such as the Act of God or Emergency Phone acts. Bounds has no more knowledge of what's happening in B than you have; nor do I have any more knowledge of A than any other player. Further, both the Act of God and Emergency Phone acts were Ron's idea, not mine, although after he wrote them up I also liked them as B rules and added my own clarifications, which we then hammered out until we had what we both considered the best general rules for games.

One such theoretical situation which was researched is covered in THEORETICAL DIPLOMACY II, which follows.

Now, upon a public charge of dishonesty, I would withdraw from the game. BUT, I want it in public, where I can sue for slander. If there is ANYONE AT ALL out there who honestly believes that Ron and I take the game seriously enough to cheat, then I'd like to hear about it. The allegations are untrue, they hurt deeply, and they hurt the game as well. So, either prove it (which you can not, since no such things are true) or keep your big mouth shut and play the game as a sportsman.

Two general rulings have been agreed on. ONE, that no refunds will be given for withdrawals. This is a matter of economic necessity. We still lose money on each issue.

TWO, THE EMERGENCY PHONE BILL. This ruling is simply that, for reasons of accident or illness only, a player in the B game may, as a last-ditch measure, phone in his move to me at (301)FO-7-06B5, on the deadline date, if he is physically unable to get to a mailbox. Note, however, that the bill is not to be misused, but is only for emergency use. Written confirmation must follow a phoned move. Phone moves must be in before midnight of the deadline date. And, if the Gamesmaster accidentally misunderstands a move, or you forget something, that's it. The way I hear it is the move, so speak clearly, distinctly, and know what you are going to say.

The rule was first used in more liberal form by Postal's originator, Wohn Boardman. It has been made a rule of B upon request of players.

THEORETICAL DIPLOMACY FOLLOWS THE B MOVES.....



RUSSIA BUILDS 3 AS ITALY ATTACKS FRANCE AND ENGLAND TAKES NORWAY!

GB-1965-B:

The moves for the fall, 1901 season, are as follows. Moves in CAPITALS succeed. Moves in lower case fail.

ENGLAND.....A EDINBURGH TO NORWAY
F NORWEGIAN SEA CONV. A EDINBURGH TO
F NORTH SEA SUPP. F NORWEG-/NORWAY
IAN SEA.

TURKEY.....F ANKARA TO BLACK SEA
A CONSTANTINOPLE TO BULGARIA
A SMYRNA TO CONSTANTINOPLE

AUSTRIA-HUNGARY.....A BUDAPEST TO VIENNA
A TRIESTE TO SERBIA
F ALBANIA TO GREECE

ITALY.....FLEET IONIAN SEA TO TUNIS
army venice to piedmont
army piedmont to marsailles

RUSSIA.....F GULF OF BOTHNIA TO SWEDEN
F SEVESTAPOK TO RUMANIA
A GALICIA TO BUDAPEST
A ST. PETERSBURG TO FINLAND

GERMANY.....FLEET DENMARK STANDS
ARMY KIEL TO HOLLAND
army rhur to belgium

FRANCE.....army spain to marsailles
army burgundy to belgium
FLEET MID-ATLANTIC TO PORTUGAL

There are no retreats. The next season is WINTER 1901, and is a build season, a happy season for everyone. There is no player at this season's end who does not build, an unusual situation. THE DEADLINE FOR THE WINTER BUILDS IS THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 23, 1965. Yes, a shorter period, but there's method here. The Monday deadline is impossible as it stands; Ron and I can not guarantee a speedy issue. However, with a Thursday deadline, publication could be on a weekend, thereby insuring a regular BARAD-DUR free of delays. This seems the best time to have a short period -- with B in winter builds, which requires almost no diplomacy, and with A in limbo. Thus, future deadlines will be Thursdays, every 14 days. -- Sept. 23, Oct. 7, Oct. 21, Nov. 4, etc.

BUILDS AND SUPPLY CENTERS HELD. Please remember that you may build only in home supply centers, and that you may not build in home supply centers either occupied or under the control of a foreign power, nor centers occupied by your own pieces. Impossible builds are discarded and there is no build that turn. Check your maps carefully!

ENGLAND: holds Edinburgh, Liverpool, Norway, London, BUILDS 1 UNIT.

TURKEY: holds Ankara, Smyrna, Constantinople, Bulgaria, BUILDS 1 UNIT.

AUSTRIA: holds Trieste, Vienna, Serbia, Greece, BUILDS 1 UNIT.

ITALY: holds Rome, Venice, Naples, Tunis, BUILDS 1 UNIT.

RUSSIA: holds Moscow, Warsaw, Sevastapol, St. Petersburg, Sweden, Budapest, Rumania, BUILDS 3 UNITS.

FRANCE: holds Paris, Brest, Marsailles, Spain, Portugal, BUILDS 2 UNITS.

GERMANY: holds Munich, Berlin, Kiel, Holland, Denmark, BUILDS 2 UNITS.

Although some folks lost precious territory, they compensated and more with gains elsewhere, making this the richest build in my experience. Such gains, with everybody a winner, will not last long for many.

REMEMBER, DEADLINE FOR THE WINTER BUILDS (which may be submitted on a postcard) IS THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 23.

PROPAGANDA

Paris (Reuters): In the Estates-General yesterday, the Emperor spoke on world affairs. He said France is faithful to Allies but woe to those that betray her.

Havas : The French government refused comment on a report stating that the Emperor had his son shot for attempting to depose him.

FLASH! FOR FIRST TIME SINCE TRAFALGAR ENGLAND GIRDS SELF FOR WAR BY SEA! Sept. 6, 1901. First Sea Lord Jellicoe today, in an unusually frank news conference, declared that England was not seeking war for her own purposes of imperialism and expansion, but was forced to take to the sea for defense. "The mobilisation of the Continental armies, as well as the putting of their fleets to sea, constitutes a grave threat to the safety of the British peoples and the Empire. Although England's navy is still second to none, predictions have shown that unless she takes immediate steps to protect her interests, her fleets will join those of France and Spain at the bottom of the sea. (in an aside to his aide, "Damn fast that is!") England's fleets dispatched previously to the seas about her will very shortly take first the defensive, and then the offensive, should any other dare to attack her.

Statement made by Czar Ivan V (Peaceful Ivan) after conference with the new premier J. Jay Sattel on the morning of August 27, 1901:

The world situation looks the worst in many years. I want peace. Russia wants peace. Russia needs peace. Russia will have peace! If possible. However, we will not be pushed around. Russia must protect her neighbors and help all peaceful countries protect civilization for the future.

Sweden, Norway, Rumania, Bulgaria, and Serbia are hereby declared to be under Russian protection. Any attacks on these countries will be the same as an attack on our sacred Russian homeland. The crass, bovine, inept, loathsomely homely, weak, ineffectual, jejune, unprolific, maidenly, deplorable, heinous, gangrenous lump of meat which sits on the throne of Austria-Hungary is particularly warned not to interfere with the mammoth army of Mother Russia. England, Turkey, and Germany are also

warned not to interfere and to be careful of what imperialistic aims the [sic] adopt.

Our power is even greater, if possible, than it appears. Our allies, The United States of America, China, Japan, and the Greeter Inca Empire are even now preparing to jump to our aid.

IDON BELIV ED
August 28, 1901
St. Petersburg

Wien: 22 October, 1901 (Reuters): Emperor Franz Josef, with the young heir presumptive, Franz Ferdinand, at his side, today announced that the Second Army, led by portly General Pfitzenstartz had returned to Vienna from the Dalmatian coast to which it had so recently been posted. The city populace, in a gala holiday mood and festively clothed, happily welcomed the footsore and weary troops back to Vienna's business and red-light districts, dependent as each is upon the military trade.

Intelligence sources in Vienna have disclosed that the Rote Cepella the "Red Orchestra," espionage network which subverted Galicia recently, has been totally exposed and smashed as a Russian instrument. The Austro-Hungarian High Command has followed this revelation with a proclamation that Galicia will soon be freed of the conqueror's heel.

In another development in this lively center of Central European divertissement and grandeur, the Minister of Culture, Herr Bookenvurm, announced the successful of the Pan-Slav movement, embracing the Croatians, Montenegrins, Bosnians, Bohemians, Czechs, Slovaks, and all others of Slavic extraction [sic]. The response from the various populations has been terrific as whole provinces have flocked to the banner of the Dual Monarchy. Herr Bookenvurm has taken under advisement the proposal that the Sudetens and the Rumanians be made honorary Slavs.

MEMO FROM THE PRESIDENT OF SWITZERLAND TO ALL NATIONS: dispatches have been reproduced exactly. A few major grammatical errors or obvious mistakes have been noted with the symbol [sic]. Spelling errors have not been so noted. The government of Switzerland respectfully recommends WEBSTER'S NEW COLLEGIATE DICTIONARY and THE ELEMENTS OF STYLE. He would also like to request clearer handwriting; had he not been a European history instructor he would have never followed the nationalities in the previous dispatch.

Sept. 10, 1901 (BBC general dispatch): Although Norway is in one of the colder areas of the Earth, still her human and natural resources make her one of the more successful and gracious nations of Europe. Her king has allowed the British forces to occupy her for our mutual defense, and we will not let this trust go awry!

MEMO FROM THE PRESIDENT OF SWITZERLAND TO THE FIRST LORD OF THE BRITISH ADMIRALTY: What is a BOC? Something like a telephone?

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THEORETICAL DIPLOMACY II

Correction to the last installment. There is a way in which one army could, in an indirect way, hold off two. The situation is covered in the rules. THE SITUATION:

Russia - A Galicia, F Sevestapol

Austria - A Budapest

THE ORDERS: A Galicia to Budapest, F Sevestapol to Rumania
A Budapest to Rumania

Both Russian armies are stood off, and A Budapest remains where it is. The reason: A Budapest does not at any time face 2-1 odds. She fights two 1-1 battles, and this is a standoff.

questions on any theoretical point are welcomed, and will be covered in Theoretical Diplomacy. Questions on an actual game situation will be answered by private letter in confidence.

REMEMBER, WINTER BUILDS BY CARD OR LETTER POSTMARKED ON OR BEFORE
SEPTEMBER 23, 1965 -- NEXT THURSDAY!

BARAD-DUR #3
5111 Liberty Heights Avenue
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